

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

This is the second in a series of notable residents of Middletown Township as recorded in History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, by Henry Graham Ashmead, 1884.



*Jesse Darlington*

Jesse Darlington, the grandfather of the subject of this biographical sketch, married Amy Sharpless. Among their children was Jared, born Aug. 15, 1799, in Middletown Township, Delaware Co., who married Mary, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Jones Dutton. Their children are Edward, Sarah J., Albert, Amy (Mrs. Henry Pratt), Frances (deceased), Jesse, Jared, Mary, and Ruth Anna. The death of Mr. Darlington occurred Dec. 7, 1862. His son, Edward, was born Jan. 22, 1832, near Darlington Station, Delaware Co. and spent his early years upon the farm of his father. He enjoyed moderate advantages of education, having first pursued his studies in Chester County, and subsequently at Andover, Mass. After a period spent teaching he returned to the homestead farm, which he cultivated until his marriage, when the farm upon which his family now resides was rented. He subsequently became the owner of this property, and

during his lifetime followed the pursuits of an agriculturist. He married, in 1856, Miss Mary F., daughter of Charles and Deborah Pittman Palmer, of Concord. Their children are Frances (deceased), Charles P., Mary, Jared, Anna S., Beulah W., Edward, and three who died in infancy. Mr. Darlington was, in his political views, a Republican, and, thought interested in the public measures of the day, was not active as a politician, nor ambitious for official distinction. As a businessman he possessed remarkable energy and was thoroughly in earnest and diligent in what he undertook, ever manifesting a keen sense of justice in all his business transactions. Integrity and honesty were prominent traits in his character. He was in his religious belief a Friend, and reared his family in that faith. Mr. Darlington's brief but useful life terminated on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 1876, in his forty-fifth year.

(Note: Darlington Dairies-The business was established by Jesse Darlington about 1794. He was the first person to introduce ice to the markets of Philadelphia to keep the butter fresh and hard. On the death of Jesse, his business passed to his son Jared and subsequently to Jared's sons Edward, Albert, Jesse and Jared. The Darlington butter was held in high repute, and commanded a much higher price than ordinary first-class butter. It was shipped largely to Washington, New York, Philadelphia and other localities where it was delivered to wealthy private families.)

**Middletown Township Historical Society**  
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### 2011 Officers

*Susan Mescanti, President*  
*Mary Anne Eves, Vice President*  
*Mike Benson, Secretary*  
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*Bruce Downing*                 *Steve Manning*



# Middletown Township Historical Society Newsletter

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## OTHER TIMES

**November 25 1909** – Mrs. Edward Darlington died at the age of 74 at her family home in the Darling section of Middletown. She will be remembered by her neighbors for her many acts of kindness over the years.

**October 2 1935** – The Pennsylvania State Police barracks in the county have been moved from Clifton Heights to the historic Black Horse Tavern in Middletown.

**November 7 1960** – Walter Crooks of Wawa, Middletown, is seeking an explanation for the large cone-shaped object that fell from the sky into his pumpkin field. His son, Walter Crooks, Jr., spotted the mysterious object as it fell from the sky.

**December 27 1985** – John D. Vairo, of Middletown, founder and executive director of Penn State University's Middletown campus, had decided to retire. Vairo is chairman of Middletown Tricentennial Committee and plans to keep active during his retirement.

**December 3 2000** - An old-fashioned hayride, Santa's Workshop, hot cider, holiday crafts and a visit from Santa are all part of Christmasland that is open through December 24 at Linvilla Orchards on Knowlton Road, Middletown.

## ORAL HISTORY ROUND TABLE

On December 1, 2010, five long-time residents of Middletown arrived at Penncrest High School to record the first oral history accounting taken by MTHS. The students of the videography independent study class set up the studio at the high school to film the discussion. Participants were: Dorothy Ace Roberts, Larry Sharp, Lawrence Weathers, Jr., William Kaufman Jr., and Wilma Martin Cowdright. The group recalled their experiences while growing up in the Lima area of the township. Stories included scouting adventures, sledding on Baltimore Pike from near the top of the hill at Pennell Road to the present location of Riddle Hospital and their experiences as Junior Air Raid Wardens. They recalled many locations that served as gathering places for young people that no longer exist today. It is evident that it was tight knit community where neighbors knew each other and the children grew up enjoying each others' company. The group had many laughs recalling the innocence of their youth. About the most devilish discussion was about Mischief Night and decorating neighbors' yards with toilet paper.

Recording the memories of places, people and events from the past is an invaluable way to capture a sense of how life was during other times.



The Historical Society thanks Principal Rick Gregg, and teacher Michael Clark, as well as the students who filmed the round table. This provided us with a great opportunity to involve our high school students and hopefully inspire an interest in the history of Middletown Township. We are hopeful that we will be able to continue with additional oral history accountings using the expertise of these students.

## MIDDLETOWN MONDAYS LECTURE SERIES

In celebration of Middletown Township's 325th Anniversary, the Middletown Township Historical Society presents the Middletown Mondays Lecture Series. The talks begin at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month in 2011 (except June, July, August and December). They will be held at Penn State Brandywine, Main Building, Room 101, 25 Yearsley Mill Road, Media, PA. All lectures are free and open to the public, no registration required. Mary Anne Eves has put together an outstanding program. MTHS board member, Gary Grove, is the guest lecturer in April. Complete information on each lecture can be viewed on our website.

Monday, January 24, 2011

### THE MILLS OF MIDDLETOWN

by Nancy Webster, Independent Scholar

Monday, February 28, 2011

### POSTCARD VIEWS OF MIDDLETOWN

by Keith Lockhart, Delaware County Historian

Monday, March 28, 2011

### MIDDLETOWN IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

by Andrew Miller, Neumann University

Monday, April 25, 2011

### JOSHUA PUSEY: MATCHES AND MUCH MORE

by Gary Grove, Civil War & Cultural Historian

Monday, May 23, 2011

### FOUNDING FAMILIES: THE PAINTERS AND PRATTS

by Phyllis Cole, Penn State Brandywine

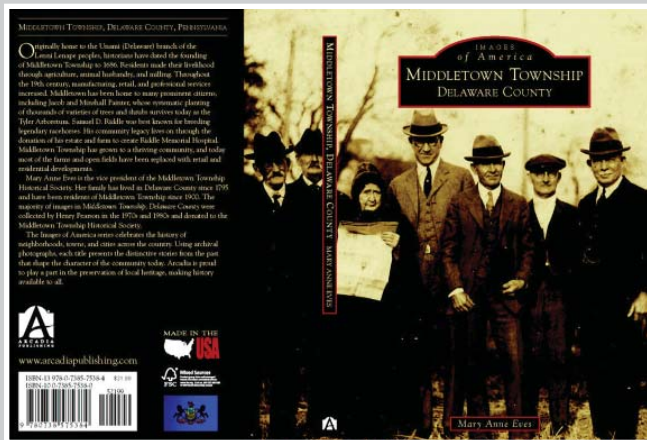
### TO BE ANNOUNCED

Monday, September 26

Monday, October 24

Monday, November 28

This schedule is subject to change, for up-to-date information please visit our website [www.mthsdelco.org](http://www.mthsdelco.org) or call 610-316-5620. This program has been supported in part by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, the Federal-State Partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



### MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP BOOK

Under the direction of Mary Anne Eves, the publication of the Arcadia Book on Middletown is moving toward conclusion. Mary Anne has been accumulating pictures of Middletown and preparing information to be included in the book. Expected publication date is September 2011. Order information will be available at the Middletown Mondays lectures and online at our website.

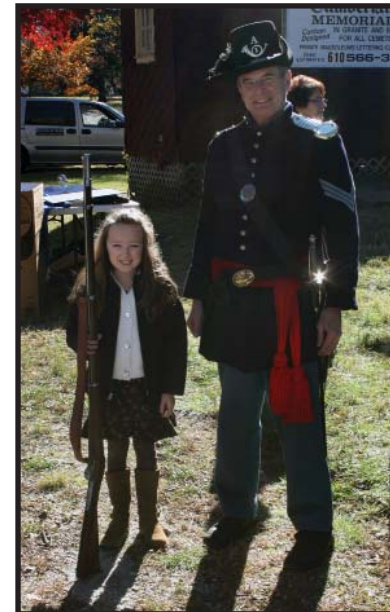
### ASTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Aston Township Historical Society, has been helping Middletown complete scans of pictures to be used in the upcoming book about Middletown Township. Aston has an inventory of many old pictures of Middletown that will enhance the book. Chris Biordi and Mary Anne Eves spent two evenings with Paul Dougherty completing the task. We thank Aston Township Historical Society for their cooperation and look forward to working with them as we strive to preserve our histories.



## CUMBERLAND CEMETERY VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY

On Saturday, November 13, the Historic Cumberland Cemetery held a ceremony honoring our veterans. Jack Monaghan, owner and Vietnam Veteran, welcomed the guests. MTHS President Susan Mescanti, accompanied by her granddaughter Katherine Herman, led the pledge of allegiance. MTHS secretary, Mike Benson, depicted Sergeant Owen Yarnall, a Civil War Veteran buried at Cumberland. Mike is a specialist in the Civil War and has lectured at resorts, schools, and churches. Dr. John Laskas' civil-war-era cannon added excitement and considerable noise to the festivities. The Marple-Newtown Combined Veterans Alliance conducted a gun salute to all veterans. The ceremony was under the direction of MTHS member Bridget Monaghan. Look for information on future events at Cumberland.



Katherine Herman poses with Sgt. Owen Yarnall (Mike Benson)



Members of the Historical Society at the Cumberland Cemetery Veterans' Day Festivities.

### MTHS RECEIVES HUMANITIES GRANT

Funding for the Middletown Mondays Lecture Series is through a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. This will allow payment of an honorarium to each of our speakers to aid in their research and pay to publicize the talks in local media outlets. Since 1973, the PHS has funded hundreds of programs, events and exhibitions across the Commonwealth. The programs they fund are invaluable to advocates of local history in Pennsylvania.

### MEMBERSHIP GROWING

MTHS has more than doubled membership over the past year. Membership supports all the initiatives you are reading about in this newsletter, as well as many others that are ongoing. Evidence of a viable and growing organization is key to obtaining grants and other financial opportunities. If you are not already a member, please visit our website for information.